

# Fort Lewis officer receives excellence award

**By Spc. Leah R. Burton**  
28th Public Affairs Detachment

An officer from 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division was recently selected for the 2005 Chief, Medical Service Corps Award of Excellence for health sciences and Junior Officer Week Program.

More than 80 nominations were received in the areas of health sciences, health services and health services maintenance technician.

Capt. Stephen Lewandowski, environmental science officer in Company C, 25th Brigade Support Battalion ranked fourth overall and first in health sciences.

After majoring in environmental science at West Point, completing the Officer Basic Course for principles of preventive medicine and serving as a project officer at U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-Europe, Lewandowski had the knowledge and experience to meet the challenges of his next assignment.

“Captain Lewandowski’s performance was above and beyond the expected skill level of his cohort group, and he excelled in all areas,” said Capt. Donald Sexton, Co. C commander.

He is credited with having worked tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of the Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez and Logistics

Support Area Diamondback near Mosul, Iraq during the unit’s deployment from September 2004 to September 2005.

Lewandowski analyzed samples of reverse osmosis water purification unit treated water, set more than 70 insect surveillance traps and collected 450 sand flies and 275 mosquitoes to track the incidence of leishmaniasis.

“I was driven simply because the Lancer Soldiers deserved nothing less than the best possible force health protection we could provide,” Lewandowski said.

“Our work was worthwhile, because, by mitigating environmental threats, we helped to keep Soldiers healthy and

able to focus on their mission.”

As a result of this selfless service and dedication, Lewandowski is recognized as an outstanding junior officer of the medical service corps.

The Chief of the Medical Service Corps will present Lewandowski and the other winners with their awards of excellence at a luncheon in Washington, D.C., in April.

Lewandowski will also attend a Junior Officer Week where he will have a chance to meet and discuss issues with senior leadership of the medical



**Lewandowski**

service corps.

In spite of this honor and recognition, Lewandowski remains humble.

“It is rewarding to have played a small role in the incredible progress the 1st Bde., 25th ID made toward freedom and security to the Iraqi people and to have served with the best warfighters in the world,” Lewandowski said. “I value this recognition since our preventive medicine section was part of a team effort.

“The award reflects upon the outstanding service of the 25th Brigade Support Battalion medical company and the dedicated support I received from my command,” he said.

# Patriots Landing retirement community gets visit from Stryker vehicle

**By Kristen E. Humphrey**  
For the Northwest Guardian

In an effort to strengthen ties with the community, Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Cavalry Regiment brought two Stryker command vehicles and a pair of Humvees Feb. 25 to Patriots Landing, a retirement community designed for retired military members and their spouses.

“We are here to establish a relationship with the greater Fort Lewis community and give folks an understanding

of what our jobs are,” said Capt. Craig Butera. “Soldiers can interact with the residents and allow the situation to reaffirm their belief in the greatest Soldiers in the world.”

This isn’t the first time residents of Patriots Landing and Soldiers of 2nd Cavalry have recognized and shown appreciation for one another.

In December, Patriots Landing hosted a Christmas party for the Soldiers. Butera’s wife, Olivia Butera, volunteers at Patriots Landing, doing arts and crafts with residents.

Patriots Landing residents were eager to inspect the vehicles. Many were able to crawl inside for a better look and get a short tutorial from Soldiers about the Stryker and its capabilities. Cold weather cut the visit short for some residents but didn’t prevent a strong turnout.

Soldiers and residents talked with each other and learned from the exchanges. Retired service members were heard reminiscing about their contributions during their time of service — their MOS, what they helped design or spearhead, their opinion of

the new equipment compared to the old. One resident said these vehicles made it look as if his time in service came during the days of the Model T Ford.

“(The equipment is) so much more awesome,” said resident Betty Zapinski. “I don’t remember anything so scary looking.”

The Army formally named its new Interim Armored Vehicle the “Stryker” on Feb. 27, 2002.

A highly deployable, eight-wheeled, armored vehicle, the Stryker combines firepower,

battlefield mobility, survivability and versatility with reduced logistics requirements.

The vehicle was named for two Medal of Honor recipients — Pfc. Stuart S. Stryker, who served in World War II, and Spc. Robert F. Stryker, who served in Vietnam.

“This is really nice to get out and see people who actually support it,” one Soldier said. “This is so civilians know what’s going on, ask questions themselves, and learn for themselves. A lot is first hand so they get a different view than what’s on TV.”